

(e) Question does not arise

Illegal selling of Railway Passes

2322 SHRI P M SAYEED Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Railway protection Force has recently busted a racket involving selling of free railway passes

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check this type of malpractice in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Recently RPF of Western Railway has busted a racket involving the selling of free railway passes on 6 2 1992 at Ajmer Station In this connection three persons including one railways employee were arrested by the RPF One Railway employee who has since retired and anted in the case is absconding A case dated 6 2 1992 u/s 3 RP (UP) Act has been registered at Ajmer

(c) All concerned have been advised to keep pass book in safe custody and carry out periodical checks In case of missing numbers the same are being notified to all concerned to avoid misuse

Ganga Action Plan - II

2323 SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rs 615 crore outlay for Ganga Action Plan-II" appearing in the Financial Express dated February 7, 1992,

(b) if so, the facts thereof including the

details of the plan for cleaning and pollution abatement of the Yamuna and the other schemes in Ganga Action Plan Phase-II, and

(c) the sources tapped for funding of the said plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) to (c) Yes, Sir An extension of Ganga Action Plan for its second phase is under consideration of the Government The schemes proposed under Ganga Action Plan Phase II include left over pollution abatement works in 25 class I towns which could not be included in GAP Phase I Pollution abatement works in Class II and Class III towns in the main stream of River Ganga and works on the grossly polluted stretches of major tributaries of Ganga like Yamuna, Damodar Gomti details in this regard including sources of funding, are under finalisation

Killing of Frogs and other Animals in Vijayawada

2324 SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether thousands of frogs and other animals are killed every day in Andhra Pradesh and

(b) if so the measures taken to preserve these animals especially in Vijayawada?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) Chief Wildlife Warden of Andhra Pradesh has reported that no large scale killing or illegal trapping of frogs and other animals has been detected in the State during the recent past

(b) Measures taken to ensure protec-

tion of wild animals in the State include:

- (i) Hunting of wild animals, for purposes other than protection of life and property, education, research and population management under Sections 11 and 12 of the Act, has been banned.
- (ii) Trade in wild animals included in Schedule I and Part II of Schedule II of the Act is banned. The trade in remaining species is strictly regulated according to the condition of the licence granted for this purpose. Frog is included in Schedule IV of the Act.
- (iii) Export of frog or part thereof is banned.
- (iv) International trade in endangered species of plants and animals and articles made thereof, is regulated under the provisions of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- (v) Central assistance is provided to State/UT. Governments for strengthening anti-poaching infrastructure.
- (vi) A network of 413 wildlife sanctuaries and 75 national parks, covering 4.2% of the geographical area of the country, has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries, on request from the state Governments.
- (vii) Special schemes for protection and conservation of tigers and elephants are being implemented.

- (viii) A system of castawards has been introduced for getting intelligence about poachers and illegal traders.
- (ix) Raids are carried out by the Wildlife Authorities of Andhra Pradesh whenever information of illegal trading in frogs and other animals, reaches them.

Reconsideration of Bodhghat Hydro-Electric Project

2325. SHRI PARASRAM BHARD-
WAJ;
SHRI PIUS TIRKEY;
SHRI RABI RAY.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reconsider the Bodhghat Hydro-Electric Project on river Indravati in Madhya Pradesh in view of the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the project is likely to destroy some 5704 hectares of exquisite sal forests; and

(d) if so, the reasons for granting environmental clearance to this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). The Bodhghat Hydro-Electric Project was granted environmental approval in 1979 and again in 1985. The proposal received under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is under consideration on the basis of reports submitted in February 1992.

(c) The project involves diversion of 5704 hectares of forest land.